R_1, R_2, and R_3 are the same or different and are selected from:

(a) hydrogen;

(b) lower alkyl groups having one to four carbon atoms;

(c) substituted lower alkyl groups having one to four carbon atoms;

(d) lower alkenyl groups having one to four carbon atoms;

(e) substituted lower alkenyl groups having one to four carbon atoms;

(f) lower alkynyl groups having one to four carbon atoms;

(g) substituted lower alkynyl groups having one to four carbon atoms;

(h) aryl groups;

(i) substituted aryl groups;

(j) hydroxy groups or hydroxy groups protected with lower acyl or aroyl groups;

(k) lower acyl groups;

(l) oxo groups, in which case hydrogen is not present on the carbon atom;

(m) amino groups;

(n) substituted amino groups;

(o) R_1 and R_3 together forming a carbocyclic ring;

(p) R_2 and R_3 together forming a carbocyclic ring;

R_4 is hydrogen or acyl;

A represents a glyceryl ester of a fatty acid capable of crossing the blood-brain barrier of an animal;

n can vary from 1 to the total number of esterifiable OH groups contained in A;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof,

said ester having a Brain Penetration Index greater than 2%,

in an amount sufficient to promote the crossing of the blood-brain barrier of said patient by said compound.

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